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BOOK REVIEWS

Die Sprachstämme des Erdkreises. VON PROF. DR. FRANZ NIKOLAUS FINCK in Berlin, Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner in Leipzig, 1909. p. viii, 143. Aus Natur und Geisteswelt. Sammlung wissenschaftlich-gemeinverständlicher Darstellungen. 267. Bändchen.

Die Haupttypen des Sprachbaus. VON DR. FRANZ NIKOLAUS FINCK, Professor an der Universität Berlin, Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner in Leipzig, 1910. pp. vi, 136. *Ibid.*, 268. Bändchen.

These two latest additions to this excellent series of German handbooks on all manner of topics from superstition to forestry, and from the theatre to electro-chemistry, cannot fail to be of value to all interested in the comparative study of languages, although it is quite evident that a number of the problems raised of late years by the special investigations of the speech-forms of the American aborigines have not come to the author's attention. The first volume, "The Linguistic Stocks of the Globe," is a decided improvement upon the list in the second edition (1879) of Friedrich Müller's "Allgemeine Ethnographie," as may easily be proved by a glance at the indexes of the two books, and Müller's list has long remained the most complete and accessible to the German public. But the investigations of the last twenty-five years have put it altogether out of date, both as to accuracy and as to completeness. Dr. Finck classifies the languages of mankind under four races: Caucasian, American, Mongolian, Ethiopian (African and Oceanic Negroes). Under the Caucasian he lists the Indo-Germanic, the Hamito-Semitic, the languages of the peoples of the Caucasus (Caucasian in the minor sense), the Dravidian tongues of India and the Basque and Etruscan, besides certain other long extinct forms of speech belonging to Asia Minor, etc., such as Elamite, Chaldic, Hittite, Lycian, etc. There is too much mixture of race and speech in this classification. While, doubtless all the peoples of the Caucasus belong to the Caucasian or "white" race, ethnologists will hardly follow the author in separating the Dravidians entirely from the Australian aborigines and making them full-fledged Caucasians, against which view there are also arguments of a linguistic character. As members of the Mongolian race, the so-called Austro-Asiatic tongues (Kolarian, Mon-Khmer, Khasi, Nicobar, Semang, Senoi), Austronesian (Indonesian, Melanesian, Polynesian,—Malayo-Polynesian), Indo-Chinese (Tibeto-Burmese, Siamo-Chinese), Ural-Altaic (Samoyed, Finnic-Ugric, Turkic, Mongolic, Tungusic, Japanese, Korean, etc.), Arctic or Hyperborean (Yenesseian, Jukaghir, Chukchee-Kamtchatkan, Ainu, Aleuto-Eskimo), a classification impossible to justify in the light of the most recent investigations. The studies resulting from the Jesup Northwest Pacific Expedition, under the direction of Dr. Franz Boas, have rendered it extremely probable that the languages of the so-called Paleo-Asiatic peoples of Northeastern Asia (Koriak, Kamtchatkan, Chukchee, Yukaghir, etc.) will be finally classed with the American Indian tongues. The Ainu must still be recognized as isolated among the Asiatic peoples, but there is more reason for affiliating them with the Caucasian race, than there is for so doing with the Dravidian. The inclusion of the Kolarian, the Mon-Khmer and the Melanesian in one group is open to fatal objections, while the Semang and Sakai of Malacca are hardly to be looked upon as Mongolian, nor can one be sure in placing there the Nicobarese, etc. And there is no good reason for cutting off the Eskimo from the rest of the American aborigines

as Dr. Finck does. The Sumerians of ancient Babylonia, about whose ethnological relations there is still not a little doubt, are here listed as Mongolian. The languages of the American race receive the most lengthy treatment (pp. 68-105) of any of the groups, the author following the regional method of cataloguing the chief stocks (North Pacific, North Atlantic, Central, Amazonian, Pampas, Andine or South Pacific), with indications of many of the smaller isolated tongues within these large areas. For North America Powell seems to have been followed generally, with some reference to later authorities (to judge from certain portions of the text). The modifications in the Powellian list, made necessary as the result of the more recent investigations of American philologists (and not included in Dr. Finck's summary) will be found in the articles on "Linguistic Stocks" in the "Hand book of American Indians North of Mexico" (Washington, Vol. I, 1907) and in the article on "North American Indians" in the forthcoming new edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica." Dr. Finck, however, notes some of these latter results, *e. g.*, the inclusion of the Adaians with the Caddoan, the Piman with Uto-Aztecan, etc. The latest researches of Lehmann in the Central American region seem likely to lead to some changes in the arrangement of the linguistic stocks between Mexico and Panama. To the linguistic stocks of South America the writer of this review has devoted considerable attention, and a monograph on that subject is preparing for publication. Dr. Finck's list of South American stocks, while, of course, not exhaustive, takes in such comparatively recent items as the recognition as independent forms of speech of the Trumaian, Bororoan, Makuan, Miranhan, Guatoan, etc. The Onan of Tierra del Fuego is, without justification, classed as a dialect of Tsonekan (Patagonian); the evidence in hand still makes it necessary to list it as an independent stock. The independent character of Atacamenan, is however, recognized. On the whole, the list of South American stocks is fairly accurate so far as it goes, and free from any important errors. The languages of the Ethiopian race include those of the Negroes of Africa (Paleo-African, *i. e.*, Bushman, Hottentot; Neo-African: Bantu, West-Sudan, Central-Sudan, Nilotic, etc.) and the Oceanic Negroes (Australian and Tasmanian, Papuan, Andamanese). The most recent studies of the linguistic relations of the peoples of New Guinea and adjacent islands will necessitate some modifications of the lists in this region. In the introduction the author touches upon the question of the human "Ursprache," but wisely remarks in conclusion (p. 7) "discussion of the temporal sequence of the various linguistic stocks is impossible, and even the degree of their antiquity cannot be settled, since we are altogether ignorant of the supposed unitary primitive tongue of all mankind." In the second volume on "the Chief Types of Language," Professor Finck selects and discusses, with considerable detail, the grammatical and morphological peculiarities and characteristics of types of human languages (Chinese, Greenland Eskimo, Subija,—a language of the Zambezi region in South Africa, Samoan, Arabian, Greek and Georgian of the Caucasus). These eight languages are treated as "typical representatives of eight groups, to which, in my opinion, can without any great violence, be assigned the languages of the whole earth (p. v.)." If one takes as criterion the idea-content of the word, these languages, "with the gradual strengthening of the fragmentary character and the increasing morselizing of the idea masses present before the beginning of speaking," the languages in question can be arranged in the following order: Eskimo, Turkish, Georgic, Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Samoan, Subija. From another point of view, that of the organization of the elements of the sentence, etc., quite another order is necessary, and Dr. Finck distinguishes them thus: Root-isolating (Chinese), stem-isolating (Samoan), root-inflecting (Arabic), stem-inflecting (Greek), group-inflecting (Georgic), subordinating (Turkish), incorporating (Eskimo), and ordinating (Subija). Still other arrange-

ments, from other points of view are of course possible. The difficulties of such a type-theory as that set forth by Professor Finck are apparent from consideration of the languages of the Old World, but they multiply and intensify themselves when the linguistic stocks of the New World are carefully examined. The "Handbook of American Indian Languages North of Mexico," soon to be published by the Bureau of American Ethnology, under the competent editorship of Dr. Franz Boas, will, for the first time, present accurate and convincing evidence upon many points connected with the speech-types of the aborigines of the United States and Canada. Suffice it to say, for the present, that the Eskimo of Greenland can hardly serve as representative for all the Indian tongues of that region, much less for all those others of Mexico, Central and South America as well. Under any system of type-listing there must be many more than one type among the many scores of linguistic stocks living and dead in primitive America. A valuable part of this volume, and one especially interesting to psychologists, will be found in the analyses of texts accompanying the discussion of each linguistic type. The first volume has an exhaustive index, and the presence of one of some sort would not have injured the second.

ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Studies in Spiritism, by AMY E. TANNER, Ph. D., with an introduction by G. Stanley Hall, Ph. D., LL. D. New York, Appleton, 1910. 408 pp.

This volume records the findings and verdict of a patient investigation sustained by a scientific conscience and enthusiasm. It represents constructively a logical interpretation of a group of phenomena whose psychological importance, though distinctive, seems modest when compared with the far-reaching conclusions attached to them by the popular verdict in favor of the supernatural. The convincing emphasis of the book is its indication that the "psychic research" platform is not only logically inadequate but psychologically perverse.

While the psychology of Paladino has been relegated to the limbo of fraud and credulity, the psychology of Mrs. Piper remains; for there seems no doubt that her sittings, whatever their more subtle or questionable implications, represent distinct if evasive phases of a secondary personality. Therein lies their interest, and not in their supposed evidential revelations. For exhibiting clearly and with illustrative detail the evidence that mediumistic trance is psychologically a form of lightly or deeply held secondary personality, Dr. Hall and Miss Tanner deserve credit and gratitude. Though the position,—and it would be surprising to find it otherwise,—has been favored and presented by other psychologists, it has not as yet received so clear a statement, so full a demonstration, nor indeed so original an exposition.

It is difficult soberly to take space to recount the endless records by which the advocates of Mrs. Piper's supernormal powers support their claim. In the "test" messages some objective control is exercised; and complex coincidences,—difficult, if not impossible to appraise,—enter to make or mar the case. Miss Tanner pursues the only way open to the dauntless critic: she analyzes the incidents, lays bare the constant sources of error, the looseness of interpretation, the ready play of chance, and with the structure thus stripped of prejudicial veneer she displays its card-board architecture. For the apologetics that have been used to make coincidence startling, and to read mysteries into commonplace trifles are no less amazing when one considers the intellectual standing of the protagonists. The psychological transgression is no less astounding; the credence given to long-range memories, the scant appreciation of the efficiency of suggestion, the neglect of control experiments, as well as the amateurish attitude towards such every-day foibles as "fishing," fooling, and lying, arouse pity or irritation, according to temperament.